

TIPS FOR YOUR VISIT TO THE DOG PARK

Inside the Dog Park:

- Remove your dog's leash inside the gated holding pen.
- If your dog must be muzzled, perhaps it shouldn't be in the Dog Park.
- Remain in control and in sight of your dog at all times.
- Your dog must have a collar with proper ID and rabies tags when in the Dog Park.
- Pay attention! Owners must clean up after their dogs. There are plastic bags and trash receptacles provided.
- **Please note:** Puppies under four months of age are at risk of infection even when vaccinated. Younger dogs' immune systems are not fully mature, and should not be in the dog park.

Prevent A Dog Fight Before It Happens: Learn the 4P Warning Signs:

- **Posture:** A dog's body language can communicate fear, hostility or submission. Learn to read and respond to your own dog's body language, and others.
- **Packing:** More than 4 to 5 dogs packed together can lead to trouble. Break it up before it starts by leading your dog to a neutral area at least 30 feet away.
- **Possession:** Whether it's you, a ball, or a treat, most dogs will protect what is theirs. Remain aware and consider not bringing those items.
- **Provoking:** If your dog is continuously annoying another dog or dogs, or provoking attention, it's time to leave the park.

What You Can Do To Prevent A Fight:

- Pay attention to your dog and be aware of where he is and what he is doing at all times.
- Stay close enough to control or protect your dog in the case of a potential fight.
- Keep a collar on your dog at all times so you have something to grab, if needed.
- Leave the park. Some days it's just a bad mix. Go for a walk or come back later. You and your dog will be better off.



What You Can Do If A Fight Occurs:

- Never reach your hands into the middle of a dogfight. You may get bitten, possibly by your own dog.
- Distract the dogs and divert their attention. A blast of water from a water bottle, loud whistle, or a pocket air horn may work.
- If a fight occurs, control your dog and remove him to a neutral area.
- Maintain a cool head. Getting upset and yelling will only add to the frenzy.
- When warranted, exchange contact information with the other dog owners. If you can't because you must attend to your dog, designate someone else to get information.

What to Do If You or Your Dog Are Injured in a Dog Fight:

Remember: An injured dog may bite anyone nearby. A dogfight can be violent and is upsetting to everyone present.

- **Attitude:** Even the calmest, most pleasant, well-adjusted person may become upset, angry or belligerent if they or their dog is injured in a fight. Emotional behavior is automatic; try to remain calm and as objective as possible.
- **Legal Responsibility:** Owners are solely liable for injuries or damage caused by their dogs. This includes injury to another dog or person, no matter how it began, who said what, or whatever the situation.
- **Exchange Information:** All involved parties should provide pertinent information including name, address, phone numbers and vaccination records to everyone concerned.
- **Report the Incident:** Minor scuffles occur frequently. In the case of a serious fight or injury or a dog that clearly exhibits aggressive or dangerous behavior, call Animal Control at (702) 346-5262 or 346-6911 to report the incident. You must have information on the offending person, even if it is only a license plate number.

